

**VOLUNTARY PRELIMINARY REVIEW
PREPARED BY
THE JOINT AGENCY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

The Joint Agency Transportation Committee (JATC), consisting of representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan County Road Association (CRAM), the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has developed the attached form and structure design sketch to allow Public Transportation Agencies (PTAs) to solicit early hydrologic/hydraulic and environmental input on their future projects.

If your agency desires preliminary review, please complete the following form and sketch keeping in mind that the more information you can provide the resource agency, the more comprehensive response you will receive. Partially completed forms will be processed. However, the hydraulic and environmental response on partially completed forms may be less comprehensive. The MDEQ will, however, make every effort to respond to your agency as comprehensively as possible within approximately 60 days.

The use of this voluntary preliminary review process will allow the MDEQ to better serve PTAs during the project planning process. We hope that this service provides a cost savings and a time savings by eliminating unnecessary redesigns and delays when applications for the environmental permits are submitted. Please mail to the appropriate address listed below.

Upper Peninsula

Department of Environmental Quality
Land and Water Management Division
420 5th Street
Gwinn, MI 49841-3004

Attention: Ginny Pennala
Telephone 906-346-8559

Northern Lower Peninsula

Department of Environmental Quality
Land and Water Management Division
Gaylord Field Office
2100 West M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735

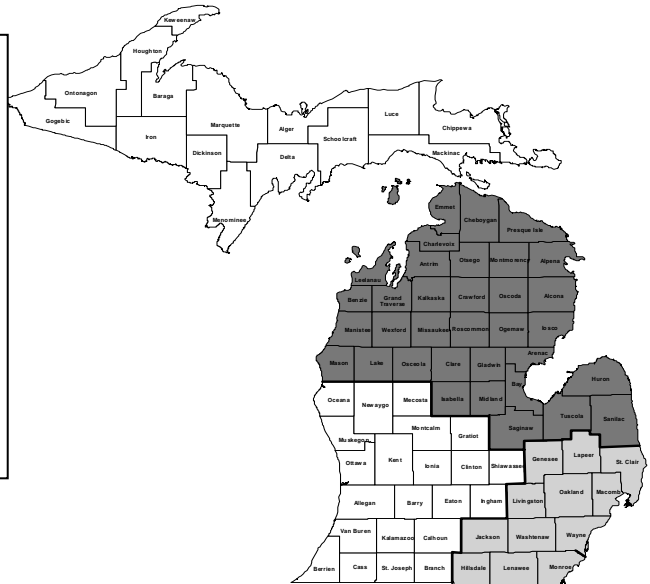
Attention: Roger (Duke) Domke
Telephone 989-705-3429

Southern Lower Peninsula

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Land and Water Management Division
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7958

Southeast Lower Peninsula
Attention: Alex Sanchez
Telephone 517-335-3473

Southwest Lower Peninsula
Holly Stearns
Telephone 517-373-4667



VOLUNTARY PRELIMINARY REVIEW

To all Transportation Agencies:

Public Transportation Agencies (PTAs), which include the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), County Road Commissions (CRAM), and Municipalities (MML); and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of this agreement is to speed the processing of construction-related environmental permits for transportation projects.

The MDOT, MDEQ, CRAM, AND MML formed a Joint Agency Transportation Committee (JATC) to develop ideas on methods to improve environmental permit services for the following types of Act 51-funded transportation projects.

- Bridges, Culverts
- Road projects which impact wetlands
- Drainage Structures below the ordinary high water mark
- Boardwalks

In the interest of providing better service to PTAs, we have developed a voluntary preliminary project-review process. This process will determine if your project will have environmental impacts on wetlands, flood plains, lakes, streams, endangered species, or other environmental concerns.

The JATC recommends that PTAs complete the following form and provide a sketch of the proposed project. The PTA should provide as much information as possible early in the planning process. The PTA will receive information on how the proposed project will impact the environment. The MDEQ will assist the agency in identifying wetlands and determining mitigation options. They will notify you of any environmental permits required for your project. They will also provide you with environmental information. MDEQ will inform you if a public-notice period is necessary before they take final action on your proposal.

The voluntary preliminary review process will allow the MDEQ to review your permit application more expediently once it is submitted. The preliminary review process provides the designer with any environmental issues early on. This will minimize the need for design changes to comply with state statutes.

The purpose of the voluntary preliminary project-review process is to better serve transportation agencies. When time allows, we recommend that PTAs take advantage of this new process to enable the MDEQ to assist you with your environmental requirements.

Joint Agency Transportation Committee

